Public Abstract First Name:SIMON Middle Name:ROBIN Last Name:COWELL Adviser's First Name:NIGEL Adviser's Last Name:KALTON Co-Adviser's First Name: Co-Adviser's Last Name: Graduation Term:SP 2009 Department:Mathematics Degree:PhD Title:ASYMPTOTIC UNCONDITIONALITY IN BANACH SPACES

We show that a separable real Banach space embeds almost isometrically in a space Y with a shrinking 1-unconditional basis if and only if $\lim_{n \to \infty} n = \lim_{n \to \infty} n = \lim_{n \to \infty} n = \lim_{n \to \infty} |x^* + x_n^*| = \lim_{n \to \infty} n = \lim_{n \to \infty} |x^* - x_n^*|$ whenever $x^* \in X^*$ in X^* , $(x_n^*)_{n=1}^{n=1}^{infty}$ is a weak * null sequence and both limits exist. If XX is reflexive then Y can be assumed reflexive. These results provide the isometric counterparts of recent work of Johnson and Zheng.